UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/714,759	11/16/2000	Lorin Evan Ullmann	AUS9-2000-0705-US1	5075

7590 07/22/2004	EXAMINER
Robert H Frantz	SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A
P O Box 23324	
Oklahoma City, OK 73123-2334	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2154	

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/714,759	ULLMANN ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Mohammad A Siddiqi	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

> A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
> - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
> - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
> - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>05/25/2004</u>.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　　a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

　　　1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　　3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-15 are presented for the examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis

for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or
> described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject
> matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a
> whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having
> ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be
> negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Birrell et al. (6,185,551) (hereinafter Birrell) in view of

Knowles et al. (5,905,863) (hereinafter Knowles).

4.   As per claim 1 and 6, Birrell discloses a method for creating and

managing chain groups related to chained electronic mail messages in an

electronic mail system (fig 2), said method comprising the steps of:

searching (col 9, line 45) within said single message (col 9, lines 42-

67) chained electronic mail message (col 11, lines 30-40) for a chain-key

field (fig 4) and message chain-key value (col 9, lines 44-62); and

associating said searched chained (col 9, line 45) electronic mail message (col 11, lines 30-40) with a chain group (col 9, lines 33-40) which has a chain group chain-key value (col 8, lines 25-31) corresponding to said message chain-key value (col 10 lines 10-24) said group having one or more other users for whom entries are stored in an electronic address book (col 10, lines 34-67, col 1-12).

Birrell is silent about the receiving or opening a single chained electronic mail message containing a plurality of portions of content, said portions of content being repeated from previous chain senders of said electronic mail message and being stored inline within a body section of said single mail message or being attached to said mail message.

However, Knowles discloses receiving or opening a single chained electronic mail message containing a plurality of portions of content, said portions of content being repeated from previous chain senders of said electronic mail message and being stored inline within a body section of said single mail message or being attached to said mail message (col 3, lines 56–63, col, col 4, lines 7-67, col 8, lines 3-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Knowles with Birrell because

it would provide a more reliable and effective way to construct message

thread.

5.   As per claim 2, 7, and 12, Birrell discloses searching (col 9, line 45) a

chained electronic mail message (col 11, lines 30-40) comprises searching a

Simple Mail Transfer Protocol e-mail message (col 1, lines 39-40)

6.   As per claim 3, 8, and 13, Birrell discloses further comprising the step

of creating a new chain group with a group chain-key value corresponding to

said message chain-key value (col 9, lines 33-40).

7.   As per claim 4,9, and 14, Birrell discloses wherein said step of creating

a new chain group comprises associating a subject descriptor (fig 7) with the

new chain group (col 5, lines 40-48).

8.   As per claim 5, 10, and 15, Birrell discloses wherein said step of

creating a new chain group comprises associating at least one electronic mail

address (col 5, lines 30-35) with the new chain group (col 5, lines 40-48).

9.   As per claim 11, a system for managing chain groups for chained

electronic messages (col 11, lines 30-40) in an electronic mail terminal (fig

2), said electronic mail terminal having a processor suitable for executing

program code, and said electronic mail terminal having a means for

receiving chained-transmitted electronic messages via a computer network

(col 11, lines 30-40), said system comprising:

a chain-key searcher (col 9, line 45) for finding a message chain-key

(col 11, lines 30-40) field value (col 8, lines 25-31) within said single

chained electronic message (col 9, lines 44 62); and an

address book (col 10, lines 33-44) chain group associator (col 9, lines

33-40) for associating the chained electronic message (col 11, lines 30-40)

with a chain group (col 9, lines 33-40) having a corresponding group

chain-key value (col 11, lines 25-41) said group having one or more other

users for whom entries are stored in an electronic address book (col 10,

lines 34-67, col 1-12).

Birrell is silent about a message receiver for opening a single chained

electronic mail message containing a plurality of portions of content,

said portions of content being repeated from previous chain senders of

said electronic mail message and being stored inline within a body

section of said single mail message or being attached to said mail

message.

However, Knowles discloses a message receiver for opening a single

chained electronic mail message containing a plurality of portions of content, said portions of content being repeated from previous chain senders of said electronic mail message and being stored inline within a body section of said single mail message or being attached to said mail message (col 3, lines 56–63, col, col 4, lines 7-67, col 8, lines 3-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Knowles with Birrell because it would provide a more reliable and effective way to construct message thread.

Response to Arguments

10.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6, and 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
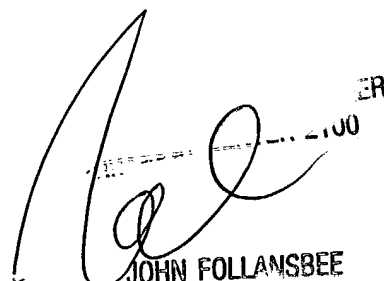
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A Siddiqi whose telephone number is (703) 305-0353. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MAS

JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

		Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
Notice of References Cited		09/714,759	ULLMANN ET AL.
		Examiner	Art Unit	
		Mohammad A Siddiqi	2154	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-5,905,863	05-1999	Knowles et al.	709/206
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
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	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Index of Claims

Application No. 7/07	**Applicant(s)** ULLMANN ET AL.	
Examiner Mohammad A Siddiqi	**Art Unit** 2154	

√	Rejected	—	(Through numeral) Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

Final	Original	7/13/04
	1	√
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Search Notes	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/714,759	ULLMANN ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Mohammad A Siddiqi	2154

SEARCHED

Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
395	200,345	7/12/2004	MAS
345	704	7/12/2004	MAS

SEARCH NOTES (INCLUDING SEARCH STRATEGY)

	DATE	EXMR
EAST	7/12/2004	MAS

INTERFERENCE SEARCHED

Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner